

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CPR-01 PM-05 OPR-02 PA-01  
PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00  
AF-10 L-03 OES-07 ACDA-07 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07  
IO-13 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00  
ERDA-05 INRE-00 /111 W  
-----031543 241143Z /14

O 241123Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1484

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10450

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (TINDEMANS, LEO), ENRG, TECH, BE, US  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS: DISCUSSION  
TOPICS: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE NEED  
OF COUNTRIES LIKE BELGIUM FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY  
INDUSTRY

REF: BRUSSELS 10322

1. BELGIUM IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO EXPANDING ITS PRESENT  
NUCLEAR POWER INFRASTRUCTURE, AS THE ONLY PRACTICAL  
ALTERNATIVE TO MEETING ITS LONG-TERM ENERGY DEMANDS.  
BELGIUM IS 100 PERCENT DEPENDENT ON IMPORTED PETROLEUM.  
COAL PRODUCTION IS IN LONG-TERM DECLINE, WITH HALF OF  
DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION MET BY IMPORTS (PRIMARILY POLAND  
AND U.S.) DESPITE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZATION OF DOMESTIC  
COAL PRODUCTION.

2. NUCLEAR ENERGY NOW SUPPLIES ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF  
BELGIUM'S ELECTRICAL GENERATING CAPACITY. THREE LIGHT-  
WATER REACTORS ARE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION, WITH TWO MORE  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND A FURTHER TWO PLANNED FOR OPERATION  
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BY 1985. BELGIUM HAS A RESEARCH REACTOR USING HIGHLY  
ENRICHED URANIUM. BELGIUM IS A POTENTIAL EXPORTER OF  
NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, AND POSSESSES FUEL  
FABRICATION CAPABILITY AS WELL AS POTENTIAL FOR FUEL  
REPROCESSING. BELGIUM RECENTLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE  
LONDON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP WITH U.S. SUPPORT, AND IS  
EXPECTED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL

NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) EXERCISE NOW IN ITS BEGINNING STAGES.

3. BELGIUM'S NUCLEAR FUTURE WAS THOROUGHLY ANALYZED AND DISCUSSED IN ITS 1976 "WISE MEN'S REPORT" WHICH RECOMMENDED EXPANDED NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED.

4. BELGIUM IS A SIGNATORY TO THE NPT AND SHARES U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, BELGIUM HAS TWO PRINCIPAL CONCERNS THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT: (A) SECURE ACCESS TO URANIUM SUPPLIES FROM U.S. AND CANADA AND (B) BELIEF THAT REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL IS ESSENTIAL TO REDUCE EUROPE'S ENERGY DEPENDENCE AND TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET MADE REFERENCE TO LATTER POINT IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW (BRUSSELS 7556) WHEN HE ALLEGED THAT STATED U.S. POLICY WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF ENDING EUROPE'S LEAD IN THE FIELD OF REPROCESSING PLANTS.

5. TINDEMANS MAY URGE UPON THE PRESIDENT THE NEED FOR CONSTANT CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE ON ALL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY. EC IS ON RECORD AS BEING PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY ALTERNATE FUEL CYCLE. BUT TINDEMANS WILL PROBABLY ALSO MAKE POINT THAT NON-PROLIFERATION IS BETTER SERVED BY EMPHASIZING CONTROLS  
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AND THEIR IMPROVEMENT RATHER THAN BY IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN TECHNOLOGIES. THE ISSUE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IAEA AND EURATOM MAY ARISE IN THE COURSE OF WORKING-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, BUT WE DOUBT THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD GET MORE THAN PASSING MENTION IN TINDEMANS' TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT. CHAMBERS

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009